



Countywide Polling Place (Vote Centers) Update

September 19, 2019

Presented by: Elections Department



Vote Center Voting

- Vote Centers are a voting option which gives the voter the ability to cast their vote at any polling site on Election Day similar to Early Voting.
- In order to offer Vote Centers as an option to voters in Texas, a County must apply to the Texas Secretary of State. The application process requires the County to conduct a public hearing and also to meet several technical requirements.



Vote Center Technical Requirements

- Electronic Poll Pad- Implemented in 2018
- Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) or Ballot Marking Devices (BMD)- Implemented in 2019
- Updated Curbside ADA Equipment- Implementation planned for Summer 2020



Vote Center Timeline

- El Paso County will be applying to use Vote Centers for the November 2020 General Election.
- The application process will take approximately 3-4 months (April – July) to complete and involves several steps:
 - Submit Intent to Participate to Texas Secretary of State
 - Overview Presentation to Election Commission and Commissioner's Court
 - Establish and Call for Committee Members (9)
 - Meet with County Stakeholders
 - Public Hearing
 - Methodology for Future Site Selection
 - Plans for Education and Outreach Efforts
 - Community Feedback



Vote Center Timeline (Cont.)

- Gather Letters of Support
 - Submit Proposal
 - Secretary of State informs County of acceptance/denial
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- Following Election, County Commissioners must conduct a Public Hearing and the County Judge submits letter requesting “successful” designation to the Secretary of State.



Vote Center Site Selection Recommendation for 2020

- Continue to Support Traditional Precinct Voting on Election Day
- Include Limited Number of High Traffic Early Voting Sites on Election Day
- Gather Data and Measure Community Response for Future Site Selection



Vote Center Site Selection for Future Election Years

- Current Texas Election Code allows for a maximum reduction in Precinct Polling Sites to 65% (97 Sites) for first Vote Center election and 50% for subsequent Vote Center elections (73 Sites).
- For a Countywide Election, sites determined by approval of County Commissioner's Court.
- For an Entity Election, sites determined by approval of Entity's Presiding Authority.
- For a Primary Election, sites determined by Political Parties



Questions??